GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1475
ANSWERED ON:27.11.2007
IMPORT OF PEPPER, CARDAMOM AND RUBBER
Reddy Shri Karunakara G.

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the prices of pepper, cardamom and rubber have fallen in the country;

(b) if so, whether the import of these items through the concessional duty route has made adverse impact on the price level of these items;

(c) whether the Government has made proper evaluation of the situation;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether the Government proposes to impose restrictions on the import of these items;

(f) if not, the reasons therefor; and

g) the steps taken/proposed to be taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH)

(a) : No, Sir.

(b): The prices of Pepper, Cardamom and Rubber have in fact, been showing an increasing trend over the last three years.

(c) to (g): While in the WTO regime, the quantitative restrictions are not possible, the import of pepper, cardamom and rubber carries duty to protect the interest of domestic market. Duty free import of Spices including pepper and cardamom into India is largely taking place for value addition and re-export under Advanced Authorisation Scheme under Foreign Trade Policy and SEZ/EOU Schemes. Though under Free Trade Agreement with Sri Lanka duty free import of pepper is allowed, the quantity of its import has been restricted to 2500 tons per annum. The import of these products also has not impacted their domestic price.

Besides Spices Board is sending weekly local auction prices of cardamom (small) to Customs to rule out any possibility of under invoicing of the product by the importers.